GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2449
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
PENDING PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;MANSINH PATEL;PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ahmedabad and Surat Passport Offices take six months to issue passports to the applicants as against 30-40 days in the cosmopolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of pending passport applications in the above offices and the number of passports issued by them during the last two years;

(d) whether the Government have received representations relating to expeditious issuance of passports by the said offices; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b) RPO Ahmedabad is the only Passport Office in Gujarat. At Surat, there is only a Passport Application Collection Centre. RPO Ahmedabad has been experiencing some difficulties since June, 2000. As a result it is taking about 4 months to issue passports. Vigorous efforts are being made to correct the situation.

(c) The number of passport applications received and passports issued at Passport Office, Ahmedabad during the last two years is as follows:

Year	No. of passport applications	No. of passports issued
1999	1,70,541	1,62,969
2000	1,89,776	1,47,072

The number of passport applications pending where the police verification report has been received is about forty thousand.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Passport Office, Ahmedabad has registered a growth of 30% in passport applications in the first 10 months of the current year as compared to last year. To deal with this increased volume of work Index Card check with computers has already been introduced. Machine writing of passports will also commence from early next year. Staff from other Passport Offices has been deployed to clear pendencies.

The situation has been turned around and the time taken in issue of passports has been steadily declining.